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Special House Probe OKd on JFK, King

Washington

With the active support of the widow of Dr. Martin Luther King, House leaders agreed yesterday to create a special committee to investigate the murders of the civil rights leader and of President Kennedy.

Representative Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (Dem-Calif.), the leader of the congressional Black Caucus, said she is convinced the investigation will show that others besides James Earl Ray were involved in the King killing. She declined to provide specifics.

Burke and two former aides to King, Representatives Andrew Young (Dem-Ga.) and Walter Fauntroy (Dem-D.C.), reached an agreement with the House Democratic leadership to establish a 12-member committee, including at least three or four members of the Black Caucus, to handle the probe.

The lawmakers were accompanied by King's widow, Coretta.

Burke said the committee would operate as two subcommittees, one to investigate the King murder and the other to probe the assassination of Kennedy.

The initiative of the Black Caucus apparently broke a stalemate in the House Rules committee which since last spring has blocked legislation calling for a congressional investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

A spokesman for Representative Thomas N. Downing (Dem-Va.), author of the measure to reopen the Kennedy case, said enough members of the Rules Committee had changed their position to assure approval of the plan tomorrow. The Rules Committee rejected the investigation by a single vote in March.

Downing is a persistent critic of the Warren Commission which concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin of Kennedy.

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